

63-4780

4 MAY 1963

Honorable Carl Vinson
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

H. R. 2729, a Bill to further amend the Missing Persons Act to cover certain persons detained in foreign countries against their will, and for other purposes, was submitted to the Congress by the Department of Defense for its own purposes and to accommodate the needs of the Central Intelligence Agency. The proposed Bill provides for specific coverage under the Missing Persons Act for military and civilian personnel employed by the Federal Government in cold-war situations and re-establishes the former policy of deferment of Federal income tax reporting and payment during the period such personnel are in a missing status.

The necessity for this legislation arises out of the fact that originally the language used contemplated conventional wartime situations. Therefore, the terminology of missing in action or interned in a neutral country, etc. is not precisely descriptive of the situations which do develop. It is difficult legally to say that a person is missing when in fact the Soviet government has announced that he is a prisoner and the individual is then exhibited to the world. Further, under the Internal Revenue Act no satisfactory legal method is provided for handling income tax reporting and payment of taxes of such individuals. This Bill would provide appropriate legal means of handling tax returns and payment of taxes. In the absence of such authority many difficult and inequitable situations do occur.

In the past the Agency has had at any one time more than half a dozen cases which would have been assisted by the provisions in the proposed bill. There are still currently certain outstanding cases which would be legally strengthened by the new legislation.

Therefore, this Agency would like to have your support of this legislation and would urge its passage by the Congress.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN A. McCONE

John A. McCone
Director

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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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